



Motor Vehicle Occupant Injury Factsheet

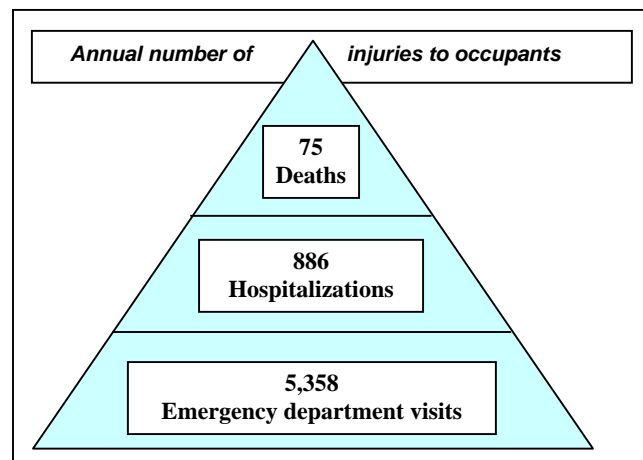
Injury Prevention & Control Program

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Overview

Hawaii had the 45th highest occupant fatality rate in the United States, a rate that was 55% lower than that for the rest of the country.

Injuries to motor vehicle occupants were the 3rd leading cause of injury mortality in Hawaii, the 2nd leading cause of non-fatal injury-related hospitalizations, and the 4th leading cause of emergency department (ED) visits. For every occupant killed in Hawaii, there are approximately 12 who are hospitalized, and another 71 who are treated in EDs for non-fatal injuries each year.



This factsheet describes injuries to Hawaii residents only, unless otherwise noted. Mortality data is mostly compiled from years 2000-2004. Hospitalization (2003) and ED data (2002) includes only non-fatal injuries.

Mortality trends (2000-2004)

- No clear trend (59 to 86 deaths per year).

Groups at risk

- More than one-third (37%) of the fatally injured victims were in the 15-24 year age range. Most (79%) were males.
- Fatality and hospitalization rates were highest for 15 to 19 year-olds.
- Crashes are 4 times more likely for drivers 15-18 years of age, compared to older drivers (DOT data).

Environment/geography

- Hawaii County had by far the highest 5-year occupant fatality rates (73/100,00 residents), over 3 times that for Oahu residents (21/100,000). The rate for Maui (41/100,000 residents) was twice that for Oahu.

Contributing factors

- Alcohol was estimated to be involved in over half (59%) of the fatalities. (Excluding crashes with unknown alcohol status.)
- Alcohol was involved in most of the deaths during nighttime (71%) and on the weekends (72%).
- More than half (56%) of all occupants killed were not wearing seatbelts. Restraint use was low among passengers (31%), particularly in the backseat (16%).
- About half (53%) of the fatal crashes involved only a single vehicle. These crashes were due to failure to keep in proper lane, running off the road and speeding.
- Nearly half (49%) of the fatal crashes involved speeding. That proportion was higher for crashes on Oahu (62%), compared to Neighbor Islands (36%).